

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 18-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 18, 19 and 21 are amended, and claims 15-17 are canceled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over DeLorme et al. (DeLorme), U.S. Patent No. 5,948,040. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

DeLorme fails to disclose a travel information providing center with a controller coupled to a memory and an interface, and that confirms a registered member based on a received member ID and prepares travel information based on information regarding the registered member that is stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID upon confirmation that the member is registered, as recited in claim 1.

DeLorme discloses a system (TRIPS) that allows a user to access the system by using the user's code, so that the system can prepare travel plans in response to user input inquiries (col. 16, lines 60-65). Namely, a user engages in an interactive planning process, revising or editing travel plans, previewing travelogs of alternate routes, selecting point of interest parameters, comparing times and costs of transportation options, in order to achieve a satisfactory travel plan.

In the example using John Jones, access is granted when a registered status is confirmed in an Accounting Subsystem 217 (col. 34, lines 26-36). Thereafter, John Jones can

commence his substantive travel planning session in TRIPS by inputting various pieces of data including the departure point of his planned trip (col. 34, lines 36-56).

DeLorme fails to provide any disclosure with regard to preparing travel information based on information regarding a registered member that is stored in a memory prior to receiving the member ID upon confirmation that the member is registered. Instead, DeLorme is directed to inputting particular inquiries (answering particular questions) in order to prepare travel information after the member ID has been confirmed (col. 6, lines 8-46). Contrary to page 11 of the Office Action, DeLorme takes into account all of the variations in a user's background that influence travel choices by adjusting the types of questions. DeLorme fails to modify the questions based on previously stored information about a user.

DeLorme only discloses storing information regarding a registered member, prior to receive the member ID, in order to determine whether the registered member is registered in the Accounting Subsystem 217. This information is not used to prepare travel information. DeLorme thus suffers deficiencies in that a member has to input all of the travel information.

For reasons similar to claim 1, DeLorme fails to store information on a vicinity of an information providing terminal prior to receiving a member ID, as recited in claim 13, or prepare or provide travel information based on information regarding a registered member prior to receiving a member ID, as similarly recited in claims 18, 19 and 21.

DeLorme also fails to disclose a travel information providing center with a controller that provides information on locations of information providing terminals which are installed adjacent to a route and which are stored in the memory, as recited in claim 11 and as similarly recited in claim 20.

DeLorme provides an explanation as to various information providing terminals that can be used (col. 14, line 43 - col. 15, line 32). However, DeLorme fails to provide any disclosure with regard to storing information on the locations of the various information

providing terminals or providing information on locations of information providing terminals.

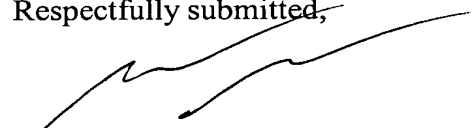
Accordingly, DeLorme fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 11 and 20.

In view of the foregoing, DeLorme fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 11, 13 and 18-21, as well as the additional features recited in their dependent claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/tbh

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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